DOL. Sirrah, what humour is the prince of?

FAL. A good shallow young fellow: he would have made a good pantler, he would have chipped bread well.

DOL. They say, Poins has a good wit.

FAL. He a good wit? hang him, baboon! his wit is as thick as Tewksbury mustard[1]; there is no more conceit in him, than is in a mallet[2].

DOL. Why does the prince love him so then?

FAL. Because their legs are both of a bigness; and he plays at quoits well; and eats conger and fennel; and drinks off candles' ends for flap-dragons[3]; and rides the wild mare with the boys[4];

Falstaff's allusion, I should have supposed, was to the death's head, and motto on hatchments, grave-stones, and the like.—Such a ring, however, as Mr. Steevens describes, but without any inscription, being only brass, is in my possession. RITSON.

*[1] Tewksbury mustard:] Tewksbury is a market town in the county of Gloucester, formerly noted for mustard-balls made there, and sent into other parts. GREY.

a —in a MALLET,] So, in Milton's Prose Works, 1738, vol. i. p. 330: "Though the fancy of this doubt be as obtruse and sad as any *mallet*." TOLLET.

3 —eats CONGER and FENNEL: and drinks off CANDLES' ENDS for FLAP-DRAGONS:] *Conger* with *fennel* was formerly regarded as a provocative. It is mentioned by Ben Jonson, in his Bartholomew Fair: "—like a long-laced *conger* with green *fennel* in the ioli of it." And in Philaster, one of the ladies advises the wanton Spanish prince to abstain from this article of luxury.

Greene likewise, in his Quip for an upstart Courtier, calls *fennel* "women's weeds,"—fit generally for that sex, sith while they are maidens they wish wantonly."

The qualification that follows, viz. that of swallowing *candles' ends by way of flap-dragons*, seems to indicate no more than that the Prince loved * him, because he was always ready to do

any thing for his amusement, however absurd or unnatural.

Nash, in his Pierce Pennylesse his Supplication to the Devil, advises hard drinkers " — to have some shooing home to pull on their wine, as a rasher on the coals, or a red herring: or to stir it about with a *candle's end* to make it taste the better," &c.

And Ben Jonson, in his News from the Moon, &c. a masque,